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William G. Dimond

48TH CONGRESS, 2d Session. } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { MIS. DOC. No. 27.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

WILLIAM A. DUNCAN

(A REPRESENTATIVE FROM PENNSYLVANIA),

DELIVERED IN THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IN THE SENATE,

FORTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1885.

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JOINT RESOLUTION for the printing of certain eulogies delivered in Congress upon the late William A. Duncan.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there be printed of the eulogies delivered in Congress upon the late William A. Duncan, a Representative in the Forty-eighth Congress from the State of Pennsylvania, twelve thousand five hundred copies, of which three thousand shall be for the use of the Senate and nine thousand five hundred for the use of the House of Representatives. And the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, directed to have printed a portrait of the said William A. Duncan to accompany said eulogies; and for the purpose of engraving or printing said portrait the sum of five hundred dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Approved, February 12th, 1885.

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ADDRESSES

ON THE

DEATH OF WILLIAM A. DUNCAN.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
December 1, 1884.

Mr. ERMENTROUT. Mr. Speaker, on me has devolved the sad duty of announcing to the House of Representatives the death of our late lamented colleague, WILLIAM A. DUNCAN, recently representing the nineteenth district of the State of Pennsylvania, composed of the counties of Adams, York, and Cumberland, which occurred at Gettysburg on the 14th of November last.

It is not my purpose now to make any remarks commemorative of the qualities and character of the deceased. Upon some future occasion that will be my sad duty. But on behalf of our delegation and of the constituents whom he represented I offer the following resolutions, and ask their adoption by the House.

The SPEAKER. The resolutions submitted by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be read.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with sincere regret the announcement of the death of WILLIAM A. DUNCAN, late a Representative from the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate the foregoing resolution to the Senate.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the House do now adjourn.

The question being taken on the resolutions, they were unanimously adopted; and accordingly the House adjourned.

DECEMBER 17, 1884.

Mr. ERMENTROUT, by unanimous consent, submitted the following resolution; which was read, considered, and adopted:

Resolved, That Monday, January 26, 1885, at 2.30 p. m., be fixed as the time for paying appropriate honor to the memory of the late Hon. W. A. DUNCAN, late a Representative from the State of Pennsylvania.

JANUARY 26, 1885.

The SPEAKER. The hour of half past two o'clock having arrived, the Chair will bring to the attention of the House the special order assigned for this time.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That Monday, January 26, 1885, at 2.30 p. m., be fixed as the time for paying appropriate honor to the memory of the late Hon. W. A. DUNCAN, late a Representative from the State of Pennsylvania.

Mr. ERMENTROUT. I submit the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That this House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. W. A. DUNCAN, late a Representative from the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended that fitting tribute may be paid to his memory.

Resolved, That as an additional mark of respect the House shall, at the conclusion of these ceremonies, adjourn.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Address of Mr. ERMENTROUT, of Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. WILLIAM A. DUNCAN, the subject of these funeral rites, was born in Franklin Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania, February 2, 1836. He died at Gettysburg, in his native county, November 14, 1884, in his forty-ninth year. His paternal ancestors originally went from the neighborhood of Edinburgh to Donegal, Ireland, from whence, about the year 1750, his grandfather, Seth Duncan, emigrated to the United States, and located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He there married and lived till late in life, when he removed to Abbottstown, then York (now Adams) County. Seth had a number of children, most of whom became notable people. It was indeed a remarkable family. James and Matthew were brave officers in the Revolutionary war. William, after whom our late colleague was named, represented Philadelphia in the State assembly as representative and senator for several terms, and was an aid to Governor Simon Snyder during the war of 1812. His son, Abner L., was a distinguished lawyer in New Orleans, whither he had gone in 1806. He was one of General Jackson's aids at the battle of New Orleans, and counsel with Edward Livingstone in defending that general during his trial before Judge Hall for proclaiming martial law. His daughter Hannah became the wife of John Nicholson, the famous comptroller-general of Pennsylvania and partner of Robert Morris, the great American financier of the Revolution. Another daughter married Judge William Moulder, of Philadelphia. The most of them lived to a ripe old age. His son, Adam Seth Enos Duncan, the father of Mr. DUNCAN, was an exception. He died in 1840, aged fifty-one years. He, too, had been a soldier, serving in the war of 1812–'13 at Lundy's Lane, Chippewa, and Black Rock, and was twice wounded.

On the maternal side tributary rills of Pennsylvania-German blood steadied and calmed the Scotch-Irish flood of many generations coursing in his veins; for both grandmother and mother

were of that race who more than two hundred years ago brought from the banks of the Rhine the arts, sciences, literature, and religion of a Christian civilization and planted them firmly in Pennsylvania.

Mr. DUNCAN, therefore, in his extraction was a Pennsylvanian, representing in blood and lineage the two great stocks which have so strongly impressed their characteristics on that State and made her a powerful, prosperous, and substantial Commonwealth.

It is a remarkable family record, even for good old Pennsylvania. Yet our friend's whole life shows that he did not depend for laurels upon his dead ancestors; he was rather actuated by the famous sentiment of the eloquent Ulysses:

> Nam genus, et proavos, et quae non fecimus ipsi,
> Vix ea nostra voco.

Nevertheless, if we would correctly weigh a man's life and character we must know the mold in which he was cast. We must all act for ourselves; but something of our characteristics we owe to our forebears, as a noted American writer puts it:

> Though nature appears capricious, some qualities she carefully fixes and transmits, but some, and those the finer, she exhales with the breath of the individual as too costly to perpetuate. But I notice also that they may become fixed and permanent in any stock, by painting and repainting them in every individual until at last nature adopts them and bakes them in her porcelain.

With these antecedents Mr. DUNCAN was left an orphan boy at the age of four years, with two other brothers but a few years older, to the charge of a widowed mother. Nothing of the past worthy of preservation for her children was permitted to be lost by this estimable lady. Her affectionate care carried them through the troubles of childhood, followed them through the temptations of youth and even after their career of manhood had opened. She died in 1880 at the advanced age of eighty years, having found the reward of her motherly devotion in seeing her boys grow into successful business men and honored citizens. Heaven grant us many such women! They are the Cornelias of the Republic.

Presumably Mr. DUNCAN early showed an aptitude for intellect-

ual pursuits, as he matriculated at the age of seventeen at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., in 1853. He graduated in regular course in 1857 as valedictorian of his class. This fact attests the eminent rank he attained while a college student as scholar, thinker, and orator. After graduating he entered the law office of R. G. McCreary, esq. (who preceded him one short year ago to the other world), at Gettysburg, the county seat of Adams, and in due course was admitted to the bar in 1859. He applied himself zealously to practice. Industry, diligence, and integrity brought with them the confidence of his associates, of the community, an extensive practice, and made his professional career a success. Endowed with such qualifications, combined with an agreeable address and methodical and regular habits, promotion to places of public trust became a matter of course. By the election of the people he filled the office of prosecuting attorney for Adams from 1862 to 1865, and so acceptably that he was again chosen to fill the same position from 1868 to 1871. He was also for a long time solicitor for the county, and filled various other local offices. In November, 1882, he was elected to represent the populous and intelligent counties of Adams, Cumberland, and York, comprising the nineteenth district of Pennsylvania, in the Forty-eighth Congress.

Here let us pause in our count of the unvarnished items that so far have made up this man's life. He did not flash into notice like a meteor, illuming the heavens to the great admiration of the lookers-on and then disappear, nor did he become notorious by reason of any great noise he made or others made for him. We find him taking his origin in a quiet little township in Adams County, going through the phases of infancy and boyhood, beginning a career of study, till it brought him to the college door. He entered at the beginning. He steadily pursued his way, looking neither to the right nor to the left. The culmination of that course was the winning of its most coveted prize. He entered the arena of real life in the ranks of the profession of his choice. He there gained its most desirable and substantial rewards. He placed himself in contact with the public.

Public trusts became his legitimate possession and public usefulness his habit. No doubt he had conflicts in the race of life, but he preserved through them all his own self-respect, the confidence of the community which had known him from boyhood, and of all with whom he associated. He was indeed a type of those men who, whether they become more or less famous, whether they adorn private station or public position, bring to humanity its most lasting and substantial achievements, who well deserve the commendation of one gifted with more than poetic inspiration, who has said—

> All my life long
> I have beheld with most respect the man
> Who knew himself and knew the ways before him,
> And from amongst them chose considerately,
> With a clear foresight, not a blindfold courage,
> And, having chosen, with a steadfast mind
> Pursued his purposes.

With such antecedents he became a member of this body. With such a record the constituency which honored him and those who knew him had a right to expect a continuance of his usefulness. But Providence willed otherwise. An insidious disease, the appearance of which had given occasion for solicitude some six years ago, had already laid so heavy a hand upon his mortality that the usefulness of his Congressional career was paralyzed at its very threshold. And though the excitement and interest natural to every one upon entering a new field seemed at the beginning of this Congress for awhile to kindle up new life, it was but the last flicker of the divine spark premonitory of approaching extinction. Those of us who noted these changes saw full well that his days were numbered. He seldom appeared at the meetings of his committees, Education and Military Affairs. His wasted form and feeble gait were seldom seen, and his seat but seldom occupied.

After the adjournment in July last and his return home he rarely left the house, except on pleasant days to take short drives. This continued till a month before death, during which time I learn he was constantly at home, and often, owing to a difficulty in breathing, unable to converse with his friends. In the long, weary hours

spent by him in the ante-chamber of death he learned fully to realize his condition and to become resigned to it. In vain friends spoke hopefully of renewed strength and prolonged life. He gave them no encouragement. Overruled by these friends, he allowed his party to honor him with a renomination for Congress, but his subsequent re-election crowned with success a brow already damp with the dews of death. Having renewed the religious vows of his early youth, armed with Christian faith in a Redeemer, he calmly awaited the beginning of a new life. In the early morning hours of November 14, 1884, at Gettysburg, his spirit peacefully took its everlasting flight.

Standing to-day at the grave of WILLIAM A. DUNCAN, my mind at this stage of our political history is irresistibly carried back to a suggestive episode in his career. In 1856, while yet a beardless youth upon the threshold of active life, he was selected as the chosen embassador of his instructors and fellow-pupils as the representative of his *alma mater* to bear congratulatory messages to James Buchanan, the last President of the United States of his party, on his election to the Presidency. Twenty-eight years elapse; years crowded with tremendous events, bringing with them tremendous changes, affecting the social and political life of millions, bringing with them overthrow after overthrow upon the party in whose supremacy his warmest sympathies were enlisted, and after years of toil and effort in her behalf, in the crowning hour of her success, at the very start of a race involving most important results to him and his political household, like Moses on Pisgah's top, in sight of the promised land, his eyes close in death.

It is a question among men whether strict propriety does not require that on occasions like this the participants should mask their feelings and restrain the flow of natural emotions. Let those who prefer play the part of the stern Roman. I prefer to be the Greek, who weeps and still remains a man. For, in this solemn presence, occupying from early youth the relations I have to our dead friend, the first victim among my Pennsylvania colleagues since my connection with this House, the recollection of long-faded days trans-

ports me back over the gaps of time, place, and circumstance. Once more I stand with him on the perilous edge of an unknown future—unknown, but filled with glorious promise and pleasing prospect. When the alluring splendors of hope gilded life's bright morning with honor, wealth, and fame, beckoning on over untrodden and untried paths, there we parted, each bent upon his respective mission, each pursuing his separate path. Converging here, with many things then hoped for never realized to both, his hoped-for unrealized balance absorbed by death. It is the one sad lesson of life—the chalice that sooner or later is commended to the lips of all—the vanity of human wishes. Yet the magic spell of that time projects a softening, soothing halo, to which no human heart can be insensible, into the very gloom of this hour.

I should hesitate to intrude upon the privacy of the domestic circle on an occasion like this; but it is due to those who survive him to say that the symmetry of our friend's rounded career visible to the public eye did not want the harmonious complement of a prosperous wedlock. Perhaps no one may tell how much of his success was due to this union. In 1863 he wedded Miss Catherine W. Schmucker, daughter of Rev. Dr. Samuel S. Schmucker, president of the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, who is now deceased, the honored head of a family distinguished in the annals of the Church, in the learned professions, and in the higher walks of literature. The fruit of the union was four sons, now aged respectively twenty, nineteen, seventeen, and thirteen years. Happily they live to console, to comfort, and to sustain the bereaved widow in the bitter affliction of this irreparable loss. They are the legatees of many honorable family traditions, of which no doubt they will prove themselves worthy. I trust they will hold up without reproach in the battle of life the noble standard that fell from the grasp of their progenitor only when his hand was nerveless in death.

His end was universally lamented and regretted. The resolutions of respect and sympathy passed by his former associates at home, the large concourse of sorrowing friends upon his interment,

bear amplest testimony to this. All that lay in human power to avert or break the force of the blow has now been done, but—

> They cannot render back
> The golden bowl that's broken at the fountain,
> Or mend the wheel that's broken at the cistern,
> Or twist again the golden cord that's loosed.

I doubt not that those of us who during the last session saw the too frail body that incased the immortal soul of our late associate must feel it to be better far to anticipate that hour when the breath of Almighty Power shall resurrect it from the dust, and change the body corruptible in time into the body incorruptible in eternity.

Thus ends my painful duty, a duty performed as best I could. I have not disfigured my face with grief as one without hope, nor indulged in vain lamentation, nor obscured with indiscriminate eulogy the memory of our late colleague. Not so have I purposed or performed. But as one who first learned to know him and become his friend years back in the college days, I have in decorous and befitting words laid an honest tribute on his tomb—a tribute not unwarmed I hope by some rays of the ancient faith, some gleams of home pride, some cheering beams from the memories of long ago.

Address by Mr. SWOPE of Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPEAKER: As the successor, fellow-townsman, and life-long acquaintance of WILLIAM A. DUNCAN I feel impelled, not only or chiefly by time-honored custom, but much more by the dictates of friendship, esteem, and regard for high mental and moral excellencies, to offer a few words of tribute to the memory of my predecessor.

A monotone of sadness pervades the literature of every race and comes wailing down to us in the song and story of all the tribes of men. To be born is but the beginning of death. All the forces and potencies of nature seem at once to combine against the structure which she herself has reared. From the initial moment life is a struggle which yields no crown to the victor, and to the vanquished suffering, decay, and death. If life were to be estimated only by

its last and culminating result, or by its continued contest with all destructive agencies, then, indeed, it would be true that—

Man was made to mourn.

The teachings of the pessimist would be in accordance with sound philosophy, and life itself would be evil, and only evil.

But man is himself a predominating factor in the economies of nature. He fills a larger place in the moral than he occupies in the material universe, and stands on a plane so far exalted above all other creations, that his life cannot be measured by his length of days in the land. It is estimated not by years so much as by deeds; not by cycles of time so much as by eras of events. In the material universe not an atom of matter is ever lost, though constantly assuming new forms and combinations.

A drop of water which to-day may be tossed in wild commotion on the waves of the deep may to-morrow glitter in the dew-drop or fall in a tear. Thus every act of man is followed by an ever-widening circle of consequences and results, and forever reappears in novel and varied phases of existence. It may itself become a propagating germ, to be multiplied and reproduced throughout all time. This large view of the vast results which may be attained in a life which has not yet reached its meridian may in a measure reconcile us to the untimely loss of those who have not lived long, but well.

Mr. DUNCAN had the honor of being chosen by the people among whom he was born and reared, and so by them well known and trusted, to represent them here. And though his usefulness was to some extent impaired by failing health and ever-increasing weakness, yet such was their firm faith in his honor and honesty of purpose and action that they again re-elected him as their Representative for the Forty-ninth Congress. This in itself is a testimony of no slight or dubious character to his worth, ability, and conscientious regard for the interests of the people whom he most closely represented. Nor is the constituency of the nineteenth district of Pennsylvania by whom he was chosen wanting in the eminence and distinction of the men whom they have sent here in times past. Whatever differences of opinion may have prevailed, and

may still prevail, in regard to great public interests and national policies, there can be no differences respecting the ability and patriotism of the Representatives chosen by the people who supported my lamented predecessor. Nor was my honored friend wanting in a watchful, careful, and intelligent regard for their interests.

But his patriotism was broader than his district. He regarded that a fragment, however valued and prized, of the great and noble old Commonwealth of which it is a part; and this again as only a member of a national family of States, constituting one grand and glorious Union, whose honor and prosperity is the highest goal, to which all should be at once tributary and subordinate.

With no tormenting ambitions for public office, and but little experience beyond the cares of a local and honorable relationship to the community in which he lived, Mr. DUNCAN was sent here more by reason of the reputation he had gained as a good citizen, able lawyer, diligent worker, and an incorruptible patriot than because he had won any renown as a Representative or legislator. That he did not disappoint or forfeit the confidence of his constituency, the faith of his party, or fail in his duty to the Commonwealth or to the county, is seen in the significant fact that he was returned on his second candidacy with a largely increased popular vote over his first election.

I may state here that which may be allowed me, as his personal friend and confidant in his last hours, that he wanted but this to smooth and make easy his path to the grave, already open to receive him, for he died just one week after his re-election. This is not the time to enlarge upon the strain and stress which is laid upon a member when his personal convictions of what is right and just are at variance with those entertained by many of his friends and by most of his constituents. Happy is he who escapes this ordeal, this trial by fire, and most happy is he who in the long run and final result can demonstrate that he was right.

Those who have known Mr. DUNCAN only in this legislative hall can form no conception of the man. His first step here was the initial movement toward his grave, and every day accelerated the pace of the relentless disease which, hour by hour, sapped and

undermined his vital forces. Still he fought a good fight against his remorseless foe. He gallantly contested every step; and could he have been placed under more favorable circumstances of climate and situation he might have protracted the contest for many years. But, sir, though often besought by family and friends to quit his post and forsake his duties, he remained here, fulfilling all the responsibilities of his position until the close of the session, when, with every duty pefrormed, and his public trust fulfilled, he came home to die in sight of those blue mountains at whose base he was born, and whose lengthening shadows, as the sun sinks behind them, almost reach his grave.

It has been said by the great dramatist, who was noted for his accurate portrayal of the human heart and his philosophic interpretation of the motives of human conduct, that—

> The evil that men do lives after them;
> The good is oft interred with their bones.

However true this adverse and discouraging estimate of the durability of good deeds may be, it can be accepted only with many limitations and under very unfortunate conditions of society. I prefer to believe the truth of a higher, more inspiring, and philosophic sentiment:

> The memory of the just is blest,
> The name of the wicked shall rot.

I believe in the essential immortality of good deeds. Those that are such are not and cannot be buried with the bones of their authors, but live after and follow them.

Nay, sir, it is a cheering truth that of "the good men do time but the impression deeper makes, as streams their channels deeper wear." It is only when death has lent its solemn sanction to a completed life, and time has confirmed the value of thoughts and deeds, that their wisdom and unselfishness are rightly appreciated.

No man takes in the range and altitude of a mountain while environed by near-jutting prominences and thick forests. The chain needs to be projected against a remote horizon, girding which may be seen the long-drawn and towering massiveness of the whole.

Thus it is that we contemplate those colossal figures which awe and inspire us along the granite ranges of history.

The virtue, purity, and patriotic devotion which look upon us from their secure heights to-day in the characters of Washington, Jefferson, and others on like Alpine summits are all the more conspicuous and impressive because of the distance from which we contemplate them. The ages will never displace them from their eminence nor shrink their solid dimensions. In the same measure and by the same law will every humbler name take its enduring place among the stabilities of the future. We may therefore confidently commit the record of our deceased brother to the keeping of that favoring genius who protects and guards the archives of the past.

WILLIAM A. DUNCAN was born in Franklin Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania, on February 2, 1836. After such preliminary training as was at that period accessible in country schools he entered Franklin and Marshall College, from which he graduated in 1857 with the highest honor. During his college course he displayed marked ability as a clear thinker and graceful writer, which qualities he enlarged and developed during his whole career. After leaving college Mr. DUNCAN studied law in Gettysburg, and was admitted to the bar in 1860. In 1862 he was elected district attorney, and re-elected in 1868. In 1874 he was the nominee of Adams County for the State senate. He was also a member of the State central committee. In 1882 he was elected a member of the Forty-eighth Congress of the United States, and was re-elected November 3, 1884. He died November 14, 1884.

While a close professional student, and a hard worker in all the details of his business, so that he commanded the unlimited confidence of his clients, he did not neglect the ordinary duties which pertain to a good citizen. He has been identified with every organization which had for its object the welfare and improvement of the community in which he lived. He was genial, kind, and courteous, and was most loved by those who knew him best.

In his domestic life his even and equable temper, his kind consideration for those about him, his hospitality to his friends, and

his constant love for his wife and children, shone forth with peculiar luster. During the long period of his weakness and depression his devoted wife administered to his wants, relieved him of such burdens as she herself could be[illegible] with an entire devotion which ended only with his life's[illegible] everything for him.

With the love of partial friendship, with the sorrow of a bereaved community, we interred the remains of our brother in the soil of a field made memorable by the bloodiest battle of cruel war.

He rests on the summit where carnage and death held their bloody revels twenty-one years ago, but where now all is peace and stillness, where the summer breezes blow softly from the blue mountains which overlook the plain now smiling with peace and plenty.

In the adjoining cemetery, where—

> Each in his narrow cell forever laid,
> The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep—

rests all that is mortal of my lamented friend and predecessor.

Let us trust that each of us, before the final result comes, may have contributed his share, humble though it be, to the happiness, prosperity, and progress of his race, so that it may not truly be said of any one of us, "he has lived in vain."

Address of Mr. ATKINSON, of Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPEAKER: As the Highlander will not pass the tumulus of his friend without adding a pebble thereto, so I offer a brief tribute to the memory of my late colleague, WILLIAM A. DUNCAN, in whose honor these services are held to-day. It is fitting that we should turn aside for a little while from our daily duties to record our testimonials of esteem for one who faithfully and honestly performed his duty as a Representative, who conscientiously and laboriously served his constituents even when declining health made his onerous duties doubly difficult, and who thoroughly enjoyed the confidence and respect of the intelligent constituency which sent him to this House.

We can render him no other service; but it is a service which he well deserved, so that we may not perform it as a mere matter of official duty or custom but because his gentle and amiable disposition, his fidelity and honesty, his industry, and his sacrifices for his country secure to him as his just due.

The district which I have the honor to represent adjoins that represented by Mr. DUNCAN, but my acquaintance with him began only at the beginning of the first session of the Forty-eighth Congress. When I first met him I was impressed with his amiability and gentleness of disposition. A thorough gentleman, of refined and cultured tastes, I found him an interesting companion, and soon learned to appreciate him as a valued friend. Although disease had set its impress upon him, he never seemed to think of himself or his physical misfortunes, but bravely and unflinchingly bore the burden which would have fallen on a man of less courage with crushing force. He attended to his public duties with careful attention to detail and a total disregard of self, as if animated only by a desire to achieve the greatest results in the brief time which he knew was allotted him to live, apparently believing that—

> We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;
> In feelings, not in figures on a dial.
> We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives
> Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.

Mr. DUNCAN'S humblest constituents could call upon him for his services, feeling assured that his business would receive as careful consideration as the more important affairs of the influential. He was polite and courteous to his fellow-members of this House and kind to his inferiors. As a lawyer he loved his profession, and although not without ambition for public life, yet acted as if the highest honor to which he aspired was to be distinguished in the profession of his choice.

Bringing fine literary culture to his professional studies, he thoroughly mastered the principles of the law and applied them readily and accurately to the facts presented in a cause. His intellectual abilities were of a high order, and he possessed a diver-

sified knowledge outside the range of his profession rarely obtained by the laborious practitioner of the law.

He acquired a large practice soon after he was admitted to the bar, and his unwearied devotion to the interests of his clientage was one of the inducing causes which produced the disease of which he died. Few men possessed as great and enviable popularity as Mr. DUNCAN. His popularity was not accidental or evanescent, for his constituents had known him from his childhood.

Soon after he came to the bar he was elected district attorney of his native county, and so satisfactory was his performance of the duties of that office that he was again elected to the same position. After his first election as a Representative in Congress he felt that his failing health would not enable him to bear the exertion and fatigue incident to a canvass for re-election, and he would willingly have declined the honor of a renomination. But his many friends insisted that he should again be a candidate, and he reluctantly yielded to their importunities.

His physical inability rendered him unable to canvass his district, but the confidence of his people was so marked, that he was elected by a larger majority than when he was first a candidate. No higher compliment could have been paid to his personal worth.

Two weeks after his re-election death called him from the scenes of his struggles and his earthly triumphs. He fell in the meridian of his useful and honorable career; and his unfinished life, if the expression may be used, is well typified by a broken column. From the spring and summer of his career we had a right to expect an abundant autumn. We regret that by his untimely death this body and his people have been deprived of those matured fruits for which his character and attainments had justified us to hope.

His body has been laid to rest among his kindred upon the historic Cemetery Hill at Gettysburg, which two decades ago vibrated with the thunder of that mighty cannonade which marked the turning point of the struggle for the maintenance of the Union. The fierce conflict over, the nation dwells in peace, and may this

peace be emblematical of the peaceful repose of his spirit since the conflict of his life is ended.

The sainted dead of the nation, who died that the Union might live, lie in the national cemetery at his feet. On the morning of the resurrection none can be in nobler company.

He has outsoared the shadow of our night;
Envy and calumny and hate and pain,
And that unrest which men miscall delight,
Can touch him not and torture not again;
From the contagion of the world's slow stain
He is secure; and now can never mourn
A heart grown cold, a head grown gray, in vain—
Nor, when the spirit's self has ceased to burn,
With sparkless ashes load an unlamented urn.

Address of Mr. POST, of Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPEAKER: He whose memory we honor to-day and whose death we mourn was a modest, unassuming, honest, and faithful citizen. Content to perform with zeal and fidelity whatever duties his environment imposed he sought not renown, but courted rather that more substantial boon, the confidence and esteem of his neighbors, with whom he was brought into daily contact and among whom he sought to achieve an honorable reputation.

During his brief term of service in this House Mr. DUNCAN was precluded from attendance upon its sessions often for several days in succession by reason of delicate health. At the time of taking his seat the ravages of disease had grievously impaired his powers of endurance, and he was therefore obliged to abstain from all social festivities, in order that his whole strength might be husbanded for the discharge of official duties. Hence it came that his acquaintance among his colaborers in this body was exceedingly limited and his usefulness necessarily curtailed. For many years it had been his ambition to represent his district in Congress; and who can imagine the bitterness of his disappointment, when at last, the coveted prize being attained, he found himself physically incapacitated for active participation in the work of legislation.

In this contentious body, with its iron-bound, inexplicable rules and utter disregard for individual feeling; where recognition can only be obtained as the result of intellectual prowess, parliamentary *finesse*, or sheer force of will; where the power is wielded by a few of the legislative elders, and a new member is chiefly considered as a necessity in making up a quorum, a man in robust health and in the full vigor of manhood's strength may well be overwhelmed by the paucity of his chances for gaining a foothold; how utterly futile of accomplishment, then, this task must have appeared to our deceased friend, who entered this Hall enfeebled by disease and with emaciated frame.

Stricken down while yet comparatively a young man, deprived of an opportunity for displaying in public life whatever talent or adaptation therefor he may have possessed, in eulogizing the dead upon this occasion we can only speak of the character and reputation sustained by him in the private walks of life. In his intercourse with his fellows the deceased was kind, considerate, and courteous. In his business relations he was conscientious, fair, and generous. As a lawyer he was able, industrious, and successful. To all trusts confided to his keeping he was faithful, and as a husband and father he was loving, tender, and true.

A little more than a year ago the Forty-eighth Congress convened in its first session. In the year that has passed so quickly, as quickly as vanishing breath, the shadow of death has frequently darkened this Chamber. Of those who then came commissioned to this House of Representatives, bearing with pride such evidence of popular favor and eagerly hoping for higher honors, several have already gone to join the great majority. Life's fitful fever being over, they sleep. As the Death King has entered here with swift and echoless tread and borne away one after another of our associates, we are reminded of the uncertainty of life, and the great and solemn truth is forced home upon us that it is appointed unto all once to die.

WILLIAM A. DUNCAN was born in Adams County, Pennsylvania, February 2, 1836. After graduating with high honors from college he read law and was admitted to practice in 1859. Aside from serving two terms as district attorney for his county he held

no other official position until his election to Congress. Always a strong partisan and taking an active interest in political matters, he was frequently a delegate to conventions, county and State.

Notwithstanding the fact that at the close of the last session Mr. DUNCAN returned to his home much prostrated, and it was apparent that the end of his earthly career was near at hand, and while unable to go about among them, his constituents unanimously renominated him for re-election, and at the election he was chosen by a large majority, thus attesting the regard of his people for their distinguished Representative. The certificate of the return judges of this election was received two days before his death.

I was one of the committee of the members of this House designated by the Speaker to attend the funeral obsequies of the deceased held in the quaint but historic little borough of Gettysburg. In that vicinity he had lived all his life, and from the immense concourse of mourning friends gathered there to pay their last tribute of respect it was evident that by those who had known him long and intimately he was beloved. There, side by side with those of his kin who had gone before, we laid him to rest, and as we retraced our steps from the city of the dead, leaving him asleep upon the breast of Mother Earth, we felt that a good man had gone from among us to his eternal home.

Address of Mr. BAYNE, of Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPEAKER: I rise more for the purpose of joining my colleagues in paying a tribute to the memory of Mr. DUNCAN than with the view of saying anything which may enlighten the members of the House about his characteristics or his life. My acquaintance with Mr. DUNCAN was formed at the beginning of the present Congress; and I was brought into more or less intimate association with him by his being a member of the Committee on Military Affairs. I also met him frequently, and our social relations were somewhat intimate and always pleasant.

As Mr. DUNCAN appeared to me, a most prominent characteristic

of his nature was that he was essentially and in every respect a gentleman.

Every element which goes to make up that desirable character was possessed in a conspicuous degree by him. He was studious always to avoid the mere suggestion of anything that would give offense. In his intercourse with others he was kindly, genial, respectful, treating all as equals.

The members of his own family—his sons and daughters—shared his association as adult equals are wont to do; and I have more than once observed the respect and consideration that were shown each other in the discussion of topics, and how free each felt to express his or her opinion, unawed by paternal austerity, fully encouraged rather by the mutual confidence and regard that prevailed in that good family.

Notwithstanding this genial, kindly temperament of Mr. DUNCAN, I am told that in the legal forum he conducted most vigorous fights, and that in professional controversies his brethren of the bar always regarded him as a foeman fully worthy of their steel. In Congress, being a new member and subjected to those unfavorable opportunities which new members have always to encounter here, he had but little chance to show the metal he was made of; but I am convinced from his course in the Committee on Military Affairs, from the decided conviction he expressed on subjects coming before that committee, that if his health had permitted him to live longer among us and it had been equal to the performance of the multifarious duties devolved upon us, here in the legislative forum he would have made his mark, as he did in the legal forum before he came here.

Mr. DUNCAN was comparatively young, and it was a misfortune to his great State and to his constituency that he was taken off so soon. In the rough-and-tumble fight of this world and in the rugged contests which seem to exist always in this body it is not easy for a man of quiet, amiable, and gentle manner to make himself conspicuous before the country, but after a while, after the lapse of time, and with some experience, I feel he would have risen to a commanding position in this House, and that his abilities would

have gained the fullest respect and admiration of his fellow-members.

His people have lost an honest and worthy man, his constituents a faithful and just Representative, and his family a good father and kind husband; and I sincerely join with my colleagues in paying this last tribute by this great body to the memory of Mr. DUNCAN.

Address of Mr. HOPKINS, of Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPEAKER: Upon the first day of the present session of Congress, when Representatives were exchanging salutations upon their reunion after a few months of separation, the cheerful greetings were silenced and the business of the House was suspended by the announcement that during the vacation two of our fellow-members had passed away from earth and would meet with us in this Hall no more.

Thus in the midst of our joyousness we were reminded that a dark shadow enveloped the households of two of our late companions. In the full enjoyment of our own active life and vigorous health we were reminded that death had stricken down two of those who sat here with us but a few months since. And we come to-day in a formal manner to honor the memory of WILLIAM A. DUNCAN.

There is much of the true philosophy of life in the Latin maxim, *de mortuis nil nisi bonum.* For it is unmanly to attack those who can not defend themselves. But in speaking of the dead the tendency is rather to indulge in exaggeration of their virtues. The friends of our departed colleague have no occasion to invoke the charity of silence; and it is quite certain that by extravagant eulogy we would do violence to the nature and wishes of him whose memory we honor.

By native capacity and educational acquirements Mr. DUNCAN was well equipped for a useful and honorable life. But, unfortunately, his mental vigor was not fortified by physical strength. He was always delicate. The insiduous disease which undermined

his life and bore him to an untimely grave crippled his energies, and to a great extent marred the perfection of his promised career. Taken away just at the period when a man's fame, if he is to have any in political life, is first forming, we can only conjecture what his success would have been. But there is enough known to excite sincere regret at his removal from his new career, when we remember that he was a man of cultivated mind, inflexible integrity, lofty aspirations, and courteous manners.

Mr. DUNCAN was never an aggressive man, but quiet, unobtrusive, and extremely modest. Yet, with all of his amiability, he was not without resolution and self-assertion. In his antagonisms he never excited enmity; in his successes he never aroused envy. The gentleness of his disposition, the frankness of his manner, the integrity of his character, made him many friends and many mourners at his death.

I had the sad satisfaction of attending the funeral of our respected colleague, and witnessed the universal evidence of high esteem in which he was held by all of his neighbors. The entire community followed his remains to their last resting-place in the historic cemetery which overlooks the town of Gettysburg, and manifested their profound respect as the body was laid away in that peaceful and lovely spot which had been the scene of a bloody and memorable conflict. As his calm life was undisturbed by the angry contentions around him, so his last, sweet sleep will be unbroken by the turbulent memories which throng the air above his grave.

The gentlemen who have preceded me have spoken at length of Mr. DUNCAN's public services, and further allusion to them is needless.

I present my estimate of his character as a modest tribute to the memory of a modest man.

I move the adoption of the resolutions.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to; and in accordance therewith the House adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
January 26, 1885.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Clark, its Clerk, communicated to the Senate the resolutions of the House on the announcement of the death of Hon. WILLIAM A. DUNCAN, late a Representative from the State of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Platt in the chair). The Chair lays before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives.

The Chief Clerk read as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *January* 26, 1885.

Resolved, That this House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. W. A. DUNCAN, late a Representative from the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended that fitting tribute may be paid to his memory.

Resolved, That as an additional mark of respect the House shall, at the conclusion of these ceremonies, adjourn.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Mr. CAMERON, of Pennsylvania. I offer resolutions, and ask that they be read at the desk.

The Chief Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow of the death of WILLIAM A. DUNCAN, late a member of the House of Representatives from the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That the business of the Senate be now suspended in order that fitting tribute may be paid to his memory.

Resolved, That as an additional mark of respect the Senate shall, at the conclusion of these ceremonies, adjourn.

Address of Mr. CAMERON, of Pennsylvania.

Mr. PRESIDENT: It is my sad duty to announce to the Senate the death of WILLIAM A. DUNCAN, late my colleague in the House of Representatives from the State of Pennsylvania, which occurred on the morning of Friday, November 14, 1884, at his home in the historic town of Gettysburg, Pa.

Mr. DUNCAN was born in Franklin Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania, on the 2d day of February, 1836. After receiving a common-school education he went through his preparatory course for college at Mercersburg, Pa., and entered Franklin and Marshall College at Lancaster, where he was distinguished for his talents and close application to his studies, graduating in 1857, on which occasion he was selected to deliver the valedictory address of his class.

After leaving college, he entered the law office of Robert G. McCreary, esq., at Gettysburg, where he diligently pursued his studies, and on the 15th of August, 1859, was admitted to the bar, and at once entered upon the active practice of his profession.

Being possessed of a versatile mind, with an open, generous, and genial nature, full of magnanimity, and particularly devoted to his adopted profession, he became one of the most promising members of the Adams County bar, and very soon acquired a large practice. It is said by one who knew him intimately that "his professional career was characterized by devotion to his profession, fidelity to his clients, and marked courtesy in his relations to the court and members of the bar."

Mr. DUNCAN practiced law successfully for over twenty years. Possessing much natural ingenuity and industry, these with his uniformly gentlemanly bearing and high integrity rendered him skillfully armed and equipped for the contests at the bar and made him successful in his business affairs. He had a broad and cultivated mind, a keen and polished utterance, and a pure and patriotic heart. Always fair and candid, he sought no unfair advantage

in argument, but invariably conceded to his opponent the same honesty of motive which he claimed for himself and which was universally accorded him. His good and reliable judgment rendered him very useful as a citizen in the conduct of any enterprise of public concern. He was patient, prudent, and far-sighted, and his astuteness was especially apparent before a jury. For years before his death he was in full practice, having a large share of assigned estates intrusted to his excellent management; and, as is generally the case in rural districts, his practice was of a miscellaneous character, rendering it necessary for him to give it close and constant application, which in the progress of time seriously affected his health.

In 1862 he received the nomination for the office of district attorney by the Democratic party of his county, of which he was an ardent and faithful adherent, and was elected in October of that year. While holding this position he performed his duties with such fidelity and impartiality that he was renominated in 1865, but owing to divisions in his party was defeated.

In 1868 he was again nominated for the third time for that position, and was elected, when he again proved himself worthy of the trust bestowed upon him by his fellow-citizens.

In 1882, after a very spirited contest, he was nominated by his Democratic friends to the Forty-eighth Congress to represent the nineteenth Congressional district of Pennsylvania, composed of the counties of Adams, Cumberland, and York, a district very strongly Democratic, and elected by 3,177 plurality. After taking his seat in the House he was assigned to duty on the Committee on Military Affairs and the Committee on Education, where he served with great credit to himself and his constituency.

Mr. DUNCAN was renominated last summer to represent his district again in the Forty-ninth Congress and was elected in the succeeding election by 4,262 plurality. His re-election two weeks before his death, although suffering at the time with an incurable disease, was a high compliment to his sterling worth and showed the universal esteem in which he was held.

Mr. DUNCAN was a thorough and consistent Democrat. Having

been imbued with the principles of that party from early childhood, his faith in its teachings and his zeal in its service increased yearly. At home he was one of the foremost leaders in its councils and an elegant and aggressive champion in defense of its traditions, but, like the great majority of his party in the State, was a firm and steadfast supporter of the doctrine of protection. It being his first term in Congress, he was too modest and retiring to obtrude his opinions upon the House or enter into discussion with older and more experienced members, but had he been permitted to live through the coming Congress he would have proven himself capable of sustaining in debate the measures he advocated with skill and good judgment.

One of the greatest characteristics of Mr. DUNCAN'S life was his abounding good nature and his unfailing charity toward others. If anything derogatory of another was said in his presence, he was sure to defend the absent one or to change the course of conversation by some humorous or diverting remark into other and more congenial channels. He had no ill to speak of others, even of those who may have treated him unkindly and unjustly.

Mr. DUNCAN was married in 1863 to Miss Catharine Schmucker, a daughter of Rev. S. S. Schmucker, D. D., an eminent divine of the Lutheran Church, an organization very large in numbers and which has in its membership some of the ablest and purest people in the State. Miss Schmucker, brought up under the teachings of a father of great strength and purity of character, was a worthy helpmeet to her husband and made his home a charming one, remarkable for its cultivated simplicity in a community noted for its intelligence and unostentatious hospitality.

Mr. DUNCAN had always enjoyed vigorous and robust health until about four years ago, when symptoms of pulmonary trouble began to develop to such an extent that he was compelled to abandon his legal practice. Although he employed the best medical skill and was extremely careful in his habits, the disease gradually gained headway. He returned to his home after the adjournment of Congress in July last. As the summer advanced his health rapidly declined, and for several weeks before his death he was un-

able to leave his residence. He grew weaker constantly, until death relieved him, dying calmly and peacefully in the presence of his wife and family.

Mr. DUNCAN was a Christian. He trusted in God and publicly avowed his allegiance to Him. His many virtues, which so fondly attached many warm friends to him, will be missed at his office, at his fireside, at the bar, and in these Halls.

In the Gettysburg Star and Sentinel of Tuesday evening, November 18, 1884, I find the following resolutions adopted at a meeting of his former associates at the bar.

That we have heard with profound sorrow of the death of our late brother, Hon. WILLIAM A. DUNCAN; that by his demise our bar has lost an able lawyer and prudent counselor, our county a useful man and a good citizen, our Congressional district an honorable gentleman and a faithful representative.

That the court, its officers, and the bar attend the funeral of the departed.

That these proceedings be entered on the records of the court, and be published in the county papers.

That we present a copy of these resolutions to the family of our lamented associate, and extend to them our deepest sympathy, and commend them to the Consoler of the afflicted and the Healer of all sorrow.

Mr. President, in my association with men in public or private life I have never heard of one who possessed a character more lovely. Strong in his convictions of right, fearless in his expression of them, he had the rare faculty of impressing his antagonists with the purity and sincerity of his motives, so that when they could not approve his position they never failed to respect the reasons which he gave to sustain it. Thus it was that he left no sting behind and his strongest political opponents were among his warmest personal friends.

During my service in the Senate we have been frequently called upon to mourn the death of fellow-members endeared to us by ties of association and friendship. In the death of Mr. DUNCAN I feel that we have not only lost a worthy associate, but the State which I have the honor in part to represent has lost an able and efficient representative. Our colleague has passed beyond the river that separates life from death, time from eternity! He has passed forever from these Halls, and has left behind him an honorable name and an unsullied reputation.

Address of Mr. MAXEY, of Texas.

Mr. PRESIDENT. The neighbors of the late WILLIAM A. DUNCAN say he was manly, generous, talented, true.

To have achieved honorable position while young, and to have increased his reputation not only as a faithful guardian of public trust, but as a man in the social and daily walks of life, he must have possessed sterling qualities of head and heart. Graduating in 1857, he was chosen to deliver the valedictory. Admitted to the bar in 1859, he, by dint of hard study, honorable deportment, a good education, and native talent, rapidly rose in his profession, and acquired a large and lucrative practice. The high estimate placed upon him by his professional brethren is the best assurance of his honor as a man and ability as a lawyer.

He made friends wherever he went and retained them. He was a man of good culture and earnest application.

Three years after his admission to the bar he was elected district attorney, and to the same office five years later.

In 1882 he was elected to the Forty-eighth Congress, and in 1884 was elected to the next Congress. His last election speaks volumes. Stricken down by the dread disease, pulmonary consumption, the shadows were gathering thick and fast around him before the canvass was closed. The scythe of death was whetted and ready to cut the brittle thread. The people knew that his days and hours were numbered, yet they showed their love and respect for the dying man by re-election to the position he had so worthily filled. Two weeks later he was numbered among the dead.

If a man die shall he live again? is the ever-recurring question.

The Creator by whose almighty fiat were launched, we know not when, countless worlds into boundless space, gave them laws infinitely wise and so nicely adjusted that this vast universe moves unerringly, so perfectly that the intellect of man can calculate centuries in advance the precise moment of an event resulting from those laws.

The infallible operation of the infallible laws of creation proves an infallible Law Giver.

The crowning glory of creation is man, with his mighty intellect, his soaring ambition, his lofty aspirations, his resistless energy; with a moral nature leading him pleasantly into the paths of gentleness, mercy, and benevolence, with an inborn veneration for the author of his existence. Can it be that such a God would create such a man, who, in obedience to the laws of his existence, has achieved such amazing triumphs over matter and such mighty triumphs over mighty intellects, and yet would doom that man to annihilation with death? Can it be that such an intellect incased in a frail mortal body should die because the body dies? Through the unending cycles of eternity the soul of man will go onward expanding in the presence of the Omniscient. If a man die he shall live again.

WILLIAM A. DUNCAN was a man of many virtues, beloved by all who knew him, and best by those who knew him best. The memory of the just is blessed.

WILLIAM A. DUNCAN has finished his course on earth. He acted well his part. We scatter flowers over his grave. "He shall return no more to his house; neither shall his place know him any more."

Address of Mr. McMILLAN, of Minnesota.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Already on two occasions during the past week we have been called upon to suspend our ordinary proceedings to pay respect to the memories of those who have been called by death from the public service. The voice of eulogy uttered upon those occasions has scarcely died within the Chamber ere we are called again to mourn the departure and commemorate the virtues of another fellow-laborer. The chair of WILLIAM A. DUNCAN, in the House of Representatives, is vacant. He was born in Adams County, Pennsylvania, in 1836, and died at Gettysburg, Pa., on Friday, the 14th of November, 1884, in the forty-ninth year of his age. Endowed by nature with a high order of talents, his intellectual powers were developed, enlarged, and invigorated by a liberal course of study and mental discipline at his alma mata, Frank-

lin and Marshall College, from which he was graduated in 1857. After faithful and diligent application through a regular course of legal study and training he was admitted to the bar in 1859. Thus thoroughly furnished for his work, he entered upon the practice of the law, and devoted himself to his profession. By his ability, integrity, and industry, he soon acquired an extensive practice, which he retained throughout his professional career of twenty-five years, during which he was twice elected by the people district attorney of his county.

He had an exalted view of the dignity and importance of the profession, and fully appreciated both its privileges and its responsibilities, and believed that for the administration of justice both lawyers and courts were to co-operate. In the trial of causes, therefore, he sought the truth and did not pervert justice; he was true as well to the court as to client. In his professional life he was not influenced by sordid or mercenary motives; he never turned a deaf ear to the cause of the poor or friendless, and was ever ready to defend the oppressed.

After so many years of arduous professional labor he consented to become a candidate for the House of Representatives of the United States, and in 1882 was elected by his constituents to represent the nineteenth Congressional district of Pennsylvania in the Forty-eighth Congress. He was a Democrat, but, with the majority of his party in Pennsylvania, he believed in the principle of protection to American industry.

His service in the House of Representatives was limited to a single term. During the Congress of which he was a member he served upon several important committees of the House.

Having participated so many years in the jurisprudence of his State he was enabled by his intellectual ability, his legal learning, his large experience, wise counsel, and sound judgment, to take a high position among his colleagues, and to render valuable and efficient service in devising and framing the legislation of the nation. He was diligent, conscientious, and faithful in the discharge of his public duties; and his generous and honorable bearing and upright

character won for him the high esteem and regard of his colleagues in the House of Representatives.

But those loved him most who knew him best. After his first term of service, although it was evident death had marked him as a victim, and that he must very soon yield up his life, his constituents, in November last, re-elected him as their Representative in the next (Forty-ninth) Congress. This was the benediction of those who had been the companions of his youth, the friends of his manhood, and who saw him and knew him in the daily walks of life. No higher or clearer expression of confidence and regard could be given by a constituency to their Representative; no greater reward could be received by a public servant.

The crowning characteristic of the life of our departed friend remains to be noticed. He was a faithful and sincere Christian; the graces which adorned his character were the fruits of his Saviour's love, and his daily life, which commended him to the favor and regard of his fellows, was the expression of his faith in Christ. This faith which prepared him to live, prepared him also to die.

If timid nature for a moment shrank at the approach to the dark valley the voice of the risen Saviour came to him in reassuring accents from the other side, "It is I, be not afraid;" and in the response of his faith his last song was the sweetest, as he sang with the Hebrew poet—

I shall be satisfied when I awake with Thy likeness.

Address of Mr. JONES, of Florida.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Again we are called upon to record our expressions of regret over the loss of a good man. WILLIAM A. DUNCAN, of Pennsylvania, in the prime of his manhood and the beginning of his usefulness, has passed away forever. In his untimely death the Church has lost a sincere Christian, the bar an able lawyer, Congress an upright and useful member, and the country a devoted and patriotic citizen. It is hard for us to comprehend the wisdom

of Providence in designating a man so circumstanced as a victim for the grave. After long years of study and preparation we find him, in his forty-seventh year, entering the other House as a member of the Forty-eighth Congress from one of the most important districts in his State. He had won his college prizes and passed on to the bar. There, in honorable competition with the able lawyers of his State, he acquired legal fame, and his intercourse with the people satisfied them that he was a fit person to represent them in the great parliamentary body which sits at the other end of the Capitol. The business of the bar for a time is put aside. Briefs and clients no longer interest him. The modest and unpretending country court-house, so long the scene of his patient and honorable labors, is overshadowed in his mind by the vast proportions of this great structure wherein his talents are to be exerted in the interest of a great nation. The stimulus of lofty and honorable ambition takes the place of ordinary professional promptings, and he comes here full of hope and heart and life, and gives his best talents and services to the interests of his country.

He served with great credit to himself, and his district in the Forty-eighth Congress and was re-elected to the Forty-ninth Congress at a time when the dark shadows of death was almost before his eyes. Conscious as his people were at that time that he would not be able to serve them in the new Congress, with a generous appreciation of his faithful services, they decided to console the last hours of his life by a public indorsement of his labors here, and show to the world that in the approaching death of WILLIAM A. DUNCAN Pennsylvania and Congress were about to lose a faithful representative and an honest man. It is not for us to pass upon the wisdom of the Almighty in matters of this kind. If from Mr. DUNCAN'S years, learning, industry, and honesty we are at liberty to infer that his death terminated a career full, with assurances of future usefulness, on the other hand it is possible that Providence interfered to save him from protracted suffering, and that, under the wise dispensation of the Almighty, what appears to be our and his country's loss is in reality his gain.

Address of Mr. MANDERSON, of Nebraska.

Mr. PRESIDENT. Not eventful the life that has closed. Spent amid stirring scenes and in troublous times it stands out against them in contrasts to be remarked. Born in that central State, the Keystone of the arch of Commonwealths, where—

> Pennsylvania holds the scales,
> And neither South nor North prevails—

where politics seems to be of every day—he was not a politician. Living on that, which one of the most stupendous events in modern history has made holy ground, where the strongest of human passions held fullest sway, and "dire was the noise of conflict," at far-famed Gettysburg, where "it seemed as though men fought upon the earth and fiends in upper air"—he was a quiet looker-on and not a soldier.

But he "acted well his part." It comes not to every man that he shall fill a page, or require even a line, in the world's history. Yet the uneventful lives seem the happiest ones, and the "mute, inglorious Miltons" of earth are usually the ones to envy, if content with life is its chiefest blessing. Of a genial nature, he made many friends, "well-springs in the wilderness," who loved him in life and mourn his too early death. Trained in the schools, he loved books, "those monuments of vanished minds," "delightful when prosperity happily smiles; inseparable comforters when adversity threatens."

Well balanced and intellectual, his pursuits were those of the scholar and his enjoyments those of the student. He could well exclaim:

> My mind to me a kingdom is,
> Such perfect treasure there I find.

Called to the bar, he became one of its leaders in his locality. Devoted to that "exacting mistress, the law," she gave him full return in a large clientage, to whose interests he was devoted.

Of upright character, he was universally esteemed, and it came

naturally, from the recognition of all these commendable qualities, that his neighbors chose him to represent his Congressional district in the Forty-eighth Congress. Suffering during his term from that fell disease of which he died in November last, he was not able to place an imprint upon any of the legislation of the last session; but fresh and well deserved appreciation of his worth came to him when, while upon the bed of death, he was re-elected to the House of Representatives.

To me WILLIAM A. DUNCAN was personally unknown, but when, at the request of a colleague who esteemed him highly, I looked over the detail of his life that I, a native of the grand old Commonwealth that he honored as it honored him, might pay fitting tribute to his memory, I was charmed with its symmetry and could not but admire the features I have so feebly portrayed. A life so beautiful, a career so even gave promise of a useful future.

It is most apt to depict him growing with the years of experience into the trusted legislator, the wise counselor, respected of all men, of service to the State, until with ripened age came fuller honors, and at last with the full allotment of years would come the end to the rounded life. But it was not so to be. "God's finger touched him and he slept."

Mr. President, I second the adoption of the resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution submitted by the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. Cameron].

Mr. CAMERON, of Pennsylvania. Before the question is put, I desire to state that my colleague [Mr. Mitchell], who desired to take and would have taken part in these proceedings, is unavoidably detained from the Senate to-day.

The resolutions were agreed to unanimously; and the Senate adjourned.

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